



Brussels
ENV.D.3/

Dear Petitioners,

Thank you for your e-mails to Commissioner Sinkevičius' cabinet in which you express your concern about the so-called licensed hunting of wolves in Sweden that began in January and in which you ask the European Commission to act. I was asked to reply on behalf of the Commissioner.

As a native species of European wildlife, the wolf is an integral part of our biodiversity and natural heritage and plays an important ecological role in ecosystems. Under the Habitats Directive¹, most wolf populations in Europe enjoy strict protection, with derogation possibilities.

The Swedish wolf population is currently categorised as endangered. Hence, particular care needs to be taken when allowing hunting based on derogations from the strict protection that applies to the species.

Sweden needs to ensure that these derogations fully comply with the Directive. In particular they have to make sure that there is no negative impact on the conservation status of wolves in Sweden and that there are no satisfactory alternative solutions to hunting. According to the Habitats Directive the wolf population also has to be restored to a favourable conservation status.

The Commission is currently assessing the recent decisions by Sweden and its compliance with EU legislation. However, the Commission has no power to directly intervene and stop measures approved by national authorities in Sweden.

Yours faithfully,

Humberto Delgado Rosa
Director

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Consolidated text: [EUR-Lex - 01992L0043-20130701 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#))